

**REMARKS**

By this response, Claims 14, 15, 16, 17, 21-29, and 39-42 have been canceled. No claims have been added or amended. Hence, Claims 1-13, 18-20, 30-38, and 43-44 are pending in this application. The canceled claims have been canceled solely in the interest of removing issues for appeal, and not for any reason related to the patentability of the claims.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,  
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